

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Soviet Citizens Association and  
Treatment of Russian Emigres in Manchuria

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. During the period of Japanese control of Manchuria the Soviet Citizens Association (Obshchestvo Sovetskikh Grazhdan) in Harbin was a voluntary, social organization with a membership of from 180 to 200 bona-fide Soviet citizens. In about July 1946 after the withdrawal of the Soviet 5 Army from Manchuria, the Soviet consul general in Harbin "advised" Russian emigres in Manchuria to organize a Soviet Citizens Association. By the end of 1946, headquarters of the new society were established in Bolshoi Prospekt, Novi Gorod, Harbin, in the former Kyowakai Building opposite the offices of Churin and Company. Branches were located throughout Manchuria in all major cities having a sizable group of Russian emigres, with the exception of Dairen, where a separate society was formed, since it is considered to be Soviet territory. Total membership in all branches was about 15,000.
2. The aim of the association was to:
  - a. Control the activities of Russian emigres through registration.
  - b. Control movements of Russian emigres by controlling the issuance of all travel passes. For example, it is impossible to buy a railroad ticket without a travel pass issued by the Chinese police, and travel passes are issued to Russian emigres only after endorsement by the society. If long-distance travel is involved, each endorsement must be approved by a special officer of the Soviet Consulate General in Harbin.
  - c. Facilitate Soviet counter-intelligence activities among emigres through the use of the association's employees and their informants.
  - d. Indoctrinate members in Communist ideology. Each member was expected to attend one two-hour lecture each week on the subject of "political fundamentals" and two one and one-half hour lectures on the subject of "international orientation". Attendance at the lectures on "international orientation" was on a voluntary basis, but members considered it advisable to attend.

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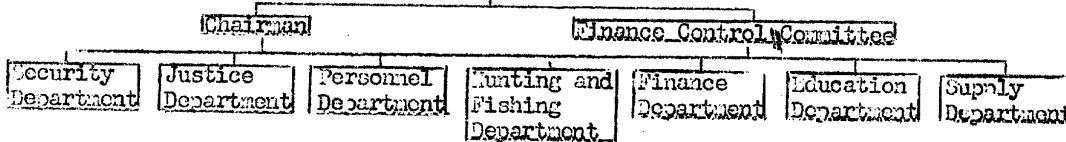
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3. The society was organized as follows:

Soviet Consul General

Executive Committee



4. The Executive Committee, consisting of five members and three alternates, actually controlled the society in August, 1950. One of the members was Yuri Aleksandrovich Samarin\*.
5. The chairman was Peter Grigorevich Lvov,\* a retired Russian emigre doctor, aged about 50. He has held this position since his election in 1949. The first chairman, a Soviet citizen and former member of the First of Soviet Citizens Association, was assassinated during 1946. He was succeeded by Knyazkov, who served as chairman until the election of Lvov.
6. The Finance Control Committee supervised all expenditures of the association.
7. In August 1950 the Security Department was headed by Bologurov, a former Manchurian policeman. This department officially exercised only police functions, but was believed to also maintain direct connections with Soviet counter-intelligence.
8. The Justice Department had jurisdiction over non-criminal cases and disputes arising among members of the association and handled cases through a three-man court.
9. The Personnel Department maintained a dossier on all members and endorsed travel permits. It had a small section for handling personnel matters for the employees of the association's headquarters in Harbin.
10. The Munting and Fishing Department was organized to control the possession and use of firearms and to promote outdoor activities. All picnics and hunting parties were organized in large groups with responsible leaders in charge. Secret informants were known to be included in each party.\*\*\*
11. The Finance Department collected membership fees, managed income from subsidiary enterprises such as bakeries, restaurants, and food distribution stores, and handled salary payments to association employees.
12. The Education Department supervised political education, international orientation, indoctrination for adults, and controlled all schools for children of Russian emigres.
13. The Supply Department was responsible for procuring and distributing foodstuffs. The association gave members the privilege of buying certain rationed grains such as millet, sorghum, buckwheat, and, infrequently, rice. Black bread and soap were also made available to members. On special holidays such as 7 November, one pound of white flour might be made available.
14. All members of the association were obliged to pay one percent of their incomes as dues. Dues were cumulative and those joining at any date were required to pay dues from the date of the association's establishment in 1946.

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15. Although all Russian emigres in Manchuria joined the Soviet Citizens Association, none of the members was authorized to buy from the Soviet cooperative shops or food distribution stores. Only actual Soviet citizens were permitted to buy from these stores.
16. Discrimination against Russian emigres was also shown regarding pay rates. Soviet citizens were paid from 5,000,000 to 12,000,000 NEPC per month while Russian emigres were paid from 1,500,000 to 2,800,000 NEPC per month.\*\*\* For example, a Soviet railroad construction engineer is paid 12,000,000 NEPC per month while a Russian emigre is paid 2,500,000 NEPC for the same job. A salary of 2,000,000 NEPC per month was barely enough for a family of two to buy millet or sorghum for their food, and was insufficient to buy even semi-white bread.
17. In August 1950 luxury goods and sufficient good food were available to persons with means in Manchuria. There were a few Russian emigres who maintained a good standard of living by concealing their U. S. dollars, gold, or jewels, but most emigres had fled to Tientsin or Shanghai. Living conditions for the majority of Russian emigres in Manchuria were extremely poor, and, as a result, their animosity towards the USSR and Soviet citizens was increasing.
18. In August 1950 the U. S. dollar exchange rate was one dollar to 350,000 NEPC. One gold "liang" (approximately 35 grams) equalled 17,000,000 NEPC. It was not an unusual occurrence nor cause for suspicion to exchange one or two five or ten U. S. dollar bills at a time. Larger denominations, such as fifty or one-hundred bills have not been accepted for years because of counterfeiting. Persons attempting to exchange these notes were in danger of being arrested.

25X1A \* ☐ Comment: Probably the Samarin reported as assistant manager of Churin and Company, Harbin. ☐ 25X1A

25X1A \*\* ☐ Comment: Possibly the Nikolai Grigorovich Lvov reported as director of the Central Hospital of the Chinese Changchun Railway in Harbin during 1947.

25X1 \*\*\* ☐ Comment: This was an effective means of preventing Russian emigres from meeting outsiders while on hunting trips, and also a means of keeping hunters from observing certain areas such as military construction areas.

25X1A \*\*\*\* ☐ Comment: This is in line with salaries reported for Russian emigres ☐

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